## The

# **IDVA Update**



Mitch Daniels - Governor Tom Applegate - Director

November 2009

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Newsletter

**Edition 2009-3** 

### Funerals at the Indiana War Memorial

Greetings. By now I hope all of you have heard about our new policy of conducting funerals for Hoosier Veterans at the Indiana War Memorial. We have received a very positive response with this and have conducted numerous services for our fellow service members. The purpose of this memo is to take another opportunity to ensure all of the Veteran's Service Organizations know about this service and to ask you to assist us in spreading the news in your individual newsletters and communications.

The opportunity to conduct a funeral service at the Indiana War Memorial is based on the following guidelines:

- -The deceased must be a Hoosier veteran which means their military home of record must be from Indiana.
- -A funeral home certified by the State of Indiana must be involved with the event.

Families interested in pursuing this opportunity should contact Mrs. Dani Powers, IWM Event Coordinator, at 317-233-0991 or <a href="mailto:DAPOWERS@IWM.IN.GOV">DAPOWERS@IWM.IN.GOV</a>

Thank you for assisting us in making sure every Hoosier veteran is aware of this opportunity.

- J Stewart Goodwin
- J. Stewart Goodwin, Brigadier General, IN ANG Executive Director, Indiana War Memorials Commission

### SGOODWIN@IWM.IN.GOV

Work: 317-232-7616 Cell: 317-502-5372 Fax: 317-233-4285

### Jon's Dream Comes to Fruition as Indiana Unveils the New POW/MIA License Plate



Judy Brinkly (center) was on hand for the unveiling of the new Indiana POW/MIA License Plate.

INDIANAPOLIS - A new specialty license plate honoring all Hoosier veterans who are missing in action or listed as prisoners of war was unveiled by Andy Miller, Commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).

Commissioner Miller unveiled the plate at the departure event for the Rolling Thunder's annual ride to the Vietnam War Memorial on Memorial Day weekend, 2009.

Held at Harley Davidson on Indianapolis' north side, the event featured Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard, State Senator Tom Wyss, and Tom Applegate, Director of the Indiana Office of Veterans' Affairs.

Miller commented, "This newest license plate honors a very special group of men and women who have put their lives on the line for the cause of freedom.

"As motorists everywhere see this Indiana license plate, I sincerely hope that they will remember these heroes and more deeply appreciate the blessings of freedom they helped secure for all of us."

The Rolling Thunder POW-MIA license plate was one of the applications considered by BMV for a 2010 special group recognition license plate. Applications were evaluated based on criteria related to technical requirements set forth in Indiana law and standards that demonstrate, among other things, an uncommon level of distinction that sets the organization and its purpose for the plate apart from others.

The plate will be available to all Hoosiers beginning in 2010.

### Hoosier Heroes to be honored at Indiana State Museum

Help honor Indiana's veterans and active military personnel this fall at the Indiana State Museum. "Heroes from the Heartland" will run from Nov. 1 through Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Hoosiers are invited to submit photos of their friends and family who have served or are currently serving in any branch of the military. The first 300 photos received will be printed and posted on a photo mural at the museum.

Photos will also be viewable electronically through the Indiana State Museum's Facebook and Flickr pages.

E-mail photos to Kerry Baugh at <a href="mailto:kbaugh@dnr.in.gov">kbaugh@dnr.in.gov</a> and include the following information:

Name
Date of service
Division of military
Hometown
Submitted by

Photos should be between 150 and 300 dpi at 100 percent.



Warren Bandy; July 1942 - January 1946; U.S. Navy; Terre Haute, Ind.; submitted by Ken Bandy.

### **IDVA Fall Conference**

The IDVA Fall Conference will be held at Pokagon State Park, Angola, Indiana, on Friday, October 30, 2009. Room reservations for the night prior to the meeting can be made by completing the attached Reservation Form and mailing it in, or by applying online at www.indianainns.com or by calling 1-877-563-4371.

You should use Group Code Number 1029VA when you make your room reservations as this will lock-in the Federal rate which is \$70.00 plus 5% county tax, no sales tax, \$73.50 inclusive. If you did not reserve your room by 9/29/09 we cannot guarantee you'll get a room. Rooms for nights following the conference are subject to availability. The agenda for the conference is:

#### Friday, 30 October 2009

# Continental breakfast, coffee and juice will be available

9:00 – 9:10 a.m. Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance

9:10-9:25 a.m. IDVA updates

9:25 – 10:00 a.m. Michael Finegan – Director VHA VISN-11

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 – 10:50 Joe Donnelly – 2<sup>nd</sup> District – Member, House Veterans Affairs Committee

10:50 – 11:30 Mike Stephens – Director, Indianapolis VARO – VBA Updates

11:30 – 12:00 MG R. Martin Umbarger – Transition Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

12:00 – 12:10 p.m. – Adjourn to Potawatomi Restaurant for free lunch buffet

12:10 – 1:10 p.m. Lunch – Released after lunch

# Transferability and the New Post 9/11 GI Bill

For the first time in history, service members enrolled in the Post-9/11 GI Bill program will be able to transfer unused educational benefits to their spouses or children. This was effectiveAug. 1, 2009.

Transferability of Educational Entitlement will be administrated by Federal VA but remains a Department of Defense (DoD) program. The Entitlement Eligibility is also determined by DoD. Applications for Transferability of Educational Entitlement must be approved by DoD. Not all of the final rules and military branch participation have been determined or finalized at this time. We anticipate that there will be additional changes to the Transfer of Educational Entitlement requirements as the respective military branches and DoD implement the program.

As more details become available the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs will post the information on our web-site at <a href="www.in.gov/dva">www.in.gov/dva</a> or in our upcoming newsletters. State Approving Agency Program Directors will also be attending several seminars and briefings in the near future that will focus on the new Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) and any new developments regarding Transferability of Educational Entitlements.

Currently the best source for the current information on transferability and to apply for the transferability entitlement is the Federal VA web site at <a href="www.gibill.va.">www.gibill.va.</a> Under the Benefit Programs heading click on Transfer Benefits to Dependents, this will provide you information on Transfer of Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits to Dependents (TEB).

To see the official DoD website containing in-depth information about TEB go to:

http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2009/0409 gibill/ (non VA link).

To apply for TEB, first you must go to the DoD transferability application web-site to determine if your dependents are eligible to receive the transferred benefits. This web-site is only available to military members.

Upon approval, family members may apply to use transferred benefits with VA by completing VA Form 22-1990e. VA Form 22-1990e should only be completed and submitted to VA by the family member *after* DoD has approved the request for TEB. **Do not use VA Form 22-1990e to apply for TEB.** For specific questions on your eligibility for TEB, please call your service career counselor or personnel center. Again, VA does not determine eligibility for TEB.

## Long Time County Veteran Service Officer Robert 'Jim' Stapan Passes Away



Robert James "Jim" Stapan, 76, passed away on Friday, July 31, 2009, in Pilgrim Manor Nursing Center, Plymouth.

The son of Elia and Rosanna Lazar Stapan, Jim was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 28, 1933. He graduated from West High School in 1952. On November 15, 1959, Jim and Juanita R.

Wallace were married in Culver, Indiana. They had met at a square dance, and loved to dance.

Jim worked at Bendix from 1968 to 1988 as a Tool Grinder and Tool Maker. He later sold Insurance for ten years. From 1999 to 2004, he was a greeter at Walmart, a job he truly enjoyed since he was constantly meeting and talking to people.

He had been the Marshall County Veteran's Officer since 2003. Jim was proud to have been in the Marine Corps. during the Korean Conflict. He served with the 3rd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force in Japan from Nov. 16, 1954 to July 3, 1956. After his first tour of duty, he re-enlisted for two years and was discharged as a Sergeant. As the Veteran's Officer, he was very proud to be able to help his fellow veterans with whatever problem they had.

An active member of Sunrise Chapel, Jim also was a member of the American Legion, VFW, and the Moose Lodge, all of Plymouth. One of Jim's favorite past-times, besides being with his children and grandchildren, was eating out. He was also an outdoorsman, and enjoyed fishing and hunting. His latest hobby was making balloon animals for children.

Jim is survived by his wife, Juanita, with whom, he would have celebrated 50 years of marriage in November, two daughters and two grandchildren. His daughters and their children are: Debra & Roger Stockberger and their son, Eric James of Argos and Tami and Rick Schmidt and their daughter, Ella Rose of Mishawaka.

Also surviving are a brother, George and Nina Stapan of Boca Raton, Florida and two sisters: Elaine Stapan and Mary and Paul Townsend, all of Lafayette, Indiana.

### VA Creating 28 New Vet Centers -Including one in St. Joseph County, Indiana

WASHINGTON (August 14, 2009) - Today, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced that combat veterans will receive readjustment counseling and other assistance in 28 additional communities across the country where the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will establish Vet Centers in 2010.

"VA is committed to providing high-quality outreach and readjustment counseling to all combat Veterans," Secretary Shinseki said. "These 28 new Vet Centers will address the growing need for those services."

The community-based Vet Centers -- already in all 50 states -- are a key component of VA's mental health program, providing veterans with mental health screening and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) counseling.

The existing 232 centers conduct community outreach to offer counseling on employment, family issues and education to combat veterans and family members, as well as bereavement counseling for families of servicemembers killed on active duty and counseling for veterans who were sexually harassed on active duty.

Vet Center services are earned through service in a combat zone or area of hostility and are provided at no cost to veterans or their families.

They are staffed by small multi-disciplinary teams, which may include social workers, psychologists, psychiatric nurses, master's-level counselors and outreach specialists. Over 70 percent of Vet Center employees are veterans themselves, a majority of whom served in combat zones.

The Vet Center program was established in 1979 by Congress, recognizing that many Vietnam veterans were still having readjustment problems. In 2008, the Vet Center program provided over 1.1 million visits to over 167,000 veterans, including over 53,000 visits by more than 14,500

Veteran families. More information about Vet Centers can be found at <a href="https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/index.asp">www.vetcenter.va.gov/index.asp</a>.

#### **Communities Receiving New VA Vet Centers**

American Samoa Arizona -- Mohave and Yuma Counties California -- San Luis Obispo County Delaware - Sussex County Florida -Marion, Lake, Collier, Okaloosa and Bay Counties

Georgia - Muscogee and Richmond Counties

Hawaii - Western Oahu

### Indiana - St. Joseph County

Louisiana - Rapides Parish

Michigan - Grand Traverse County, also serving Wexford County

Missouri - Boone County

Montana - Cascade and Flathead Counties

Ohio - Stark County

Oregon - Deschutes County

Pennsylvania - Lancaster County

South Carolina - Horry County

Texas - Jefferson and Taylor Counties

Utah - Washington County

Washington - Walla Walla County, also serving Umatilla County,

Oregon

Wisconsin - LaCrosse County, also serving Monroe County

# Happenings Around the State

# An End of an Era Indiana sees the closing of the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Home for Children



The 2009 graduating class listen to Superintendent Paul Wilkinson speak at the final graduation dinner held for students of the Home.

### VA Opens New Community-Based Outpatient Clinic in Scott County



Pictured from L to R, are Austin Mayor Douglas Campbell; Pamela Thompson, Assoc. Director, Patient Care Services, cutting the ribbon is Roger Clark, WW II POW, standing next to him is Walter Rumple, WWII POW.

# **Honor Sisters in Arms**

Third Annual Hoosier Women Veterans Conference

Kelly Jones-Sharp

Indianapolis -- A daylong program featuring national speakers and an audience of several hundred will honor Indiana women veterans on *Saturday, Oct. 31 at the Indiana War Memorial*. Members of the news media are invited to attend.

Among those to be honored at the Third Annual Hoosier Women Veterans Conference include veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm; women who have served and who are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and a group of aging and disabled women veterans housed at the Indiana Veterans Home in West Lafayette.

"Women today are serving our country in greater numbers and in more diverse roles than at any time in our nation's history," said Tom Applegate, Director Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. "It's important to recognize the outstanding achievements of those who are now serving as well as the sacrifice of those who paved the way for their service."

In 2007, Indiana had 2,200 women on active duty and around 33,000 veterans. Several hundred women veterans have registered for the program, which runs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Speakers on hand for press availability include:

- Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris, Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans. Dr. Trowell-Harris retired from the Air National Guard in 2001 with the rank of major general.
- Brig General Wilma Vaught, President Women In Military Service for America, retired from the US Air Force with the rank of Brigadier General.
- Elizabeth Goolsby, Associate Director, Roudebush VA Medical Center, Indianapolis. Ms. Goolsby retired from the U.S. Army Reserves in 2001 with the rank of colonel.
- Kristin Svyantek Garvey, Executive Director, Indiana Commission for Women

The event is sponsored by the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Richard L. Roudebush Fort Wayne and Marion VA Medical Centers.

Registration is open at no cost to all Indiana women veterans at <a href="www.in.gov/veteran">www.in.gov/veteran</a> or by contacting IDVA at 317-232-3921.

WHAT: Third Annual Hoosier Women

**Veteran's Conference** 

WHEN: Sat., Oct. 31, 8 a.m. to 3 p. m.

WHERE: Indiana War Memorial, 431 N Meridian St. Indianapolis IN 46204

**For more information** or to register to attend contact IDVA State Service Officer Kris A. Bertrand at kabertrand@dva.in.gov or 317-232-3921.

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# \$555 Million DoD Homeowners Assistance Program Details Announced

The Department of Defense (DoD) today announced details for the temporary expansion of the Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP). Using \$555 million in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), this program is designed to partially reimburse eligible military personnel, surviving spouses, and federal civilian employees whose service to the nation has required them to relocate and sell their primary residence at a loss.

Potential eligible personnel include:

- Active and former service members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard;
- Civilian employees of the DoD, Coast Guard, and non-appropriated fund activities; and
- Surviving spouses of both fallen service members and civilian employees.
- Potential eligible personnel who have sold a primary home for a loss or are considering selling their home are encouraged to visit the DoD HAP Web site (<a href="http://hap.usace.army.mil">http://hap.usace.army.mil</a>) to check specific program criteria, and if eligible, apply online.

The DoD HAP has been providing financial assistance to military personnel and DoD civilians since 1966, mainly at base realignment and closure (BRAC) sites where government action caused a decrease in market home values. While the HAP expansion is not designed to pay 100 percent of losses or to cover all declines in value, it can help protect eligible applicants from financial catastrophe due to significant losses in their home values.

Supporting military families is one of administration's highest priorities and includes leadership and engagement by Michelle Obama and Jill Biden. In February 2009, the Congress provided ARRA funding for a temporary expansion of the HAP to address unique economic pressures faced by military personnel who are forced to relocate during these unusually adverse housing market conditions. After conducting an extensive analysis to determine how best to prioritize the finite funds available while maximizing assistance to as many people as possible, the DoD developed specific eligibility criteria designed to take care of people in the greatest need. These program details have been published in the Federal Register and are now available for public comment.

ARRA funding allows the DoD to temporarily expand HAP to partially reimburse losses from the sale of a primary residence in the following priority order:

- 1. Homeowners wounded, injured, or ill in the line of duty while deployed since Sept. 11, 2001, and relocating in furtherance of medical treatment;
- 2. Surviving spouse homeowners relocating within two years after the death of their spouse;
- 3. Homeowners affected by the 2005 BRAC round, without the need (which existed under previous law) to prove that a base closure announcement caused a local housing market decline; and
- 4. Service member homeowners receiving orders dated on or after Feb. 1, 2006, through Dec. 31, 2009, for a permanent change of station (PCS) move. The orders must specify a report-no-later-than date on or before Feb. 28, 2010, to a new duty station or home port outside a 50-mile radius of the service member's former duty station. These dates may be extended to Sept. 30, 2012, based on availability of funds.

Each of these general categories has more specific eligibility requirements which have been updated at the DoD HAP Web site (<a href="http://hap.usace.army.mil">http://hap.usace.army.mil</a>). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers executes the program for all the military branches and HAP administrators will immediately start processing applications.

U.S. Department of Defense Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

On the Web: http://www.defenselink.mil/Releases/

Media Contact: +1 (703) 697-5131/697-5132

**Public Contact:** 

http://www.defenselink.mil/faq/comment.html

or +1 (703) 428-0711 +1

## VA Extends "Agent Orange" Benefits to More Veterans Parkinson's Disease, Two Other Illnesses Recognized

WASHINGTON –Relying on an independent study by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki decided to establish a service-connection for Vietnam Veterans with three specific illnesses based on the latest evidence of an association with the herbicides referred to Agent Orange.

The illnesses affected by the recent decision are B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson's disease; and ischemic heart disease.

Used in Vietnam to defoliate trees and remove concealment for the enemy, Agent Orange left a legacy of suffering and disability that continues to the present. Between January 1965 and April 1970, an estimated 2.6 million military personnel who served in Vietnam were potentially exposed to sprayed Agent Orange.

In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a "presumed" illness don't have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits.

The Secretary's decision brings to 15 the number of presumed illnesses recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

"We must do better reviews of illnesses that may be connected to service, and we will," Shinseki added. "Veterans who endure health problems deserve timely decisions based on solid evidence."

Other illnesses previously recognized under VA's "presumption" rule as being caused by exposure to herbicides during the Vietnam War are:

- Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy

- AL Amyloidosis
- Chloracne
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)
- Hodgkin's Disease
- Multiple Myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda
- Prostate Cancer
- Respiratory Cancers, and
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)

Additional information about Agent Orange and VA's services and programs for Veterans exposed to the chemical are available at <a href="https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorang">www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorang</a>



### Major General Robert G. Moorhead

September 4, 1921 - October 11, 2009

Indianapolis Star - MG Moorhead was a graduate of Indiana University where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. After college, he

began Officer Candidate Training School and soon found himself in Europe as a replacement officer assigned to the 115th Infantry, which had been decimated on D-Day. When he returned from Germany as a young Captain, Bob joined the Indiana National Guard, eventually rising to the rank of Major General and Division Commander. He later was appointed Deputy Commander of the U.S. Training and Doctrine Command.

He served as President of the State Armory Board for decades, and was proud to have the downtown Armory renamed the Tyndall-Moorhead Armory.

He is survived by his wife, Maggie, 5 children, 19 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

# The Indiana Operation Enduring Freedom/ Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Wall

Indiana has sustained the following casualties since the last Update



Senior Airman Ashton L. M. Goodman, 21, Indianapolis, IN

Died of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device. She was assigned to the 43rd Logistics Readiness Squadron based at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina.

Goodman graduated from Warren Central High School in 2006 and joined the Air Force that July. She was fond of animals and working toward becoming a veterinarian.



United States Army Specialist Chancellor A. Keesling, 25, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Died in Baghdad, Iraq on 19 June 2009 in a non-combat situation, according to the Defense Department

He was assigned to the 961st Engineer Co. out of Sharonville, Ohio, and was on his third tour of duty in Iraq. He was home in Indianapolis a few weeks prior, celebrating his 25th birthday with family and friends.



Army Reserve SPC Paul Eugene Andersen, 49, South Bend, Indiana.

Died on Oct 1, 2009 in Iraq from wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked Camp Liberty using indirect fire.

He was a member of the 855th Quartermaster Company, South Bend, Indiana.









# Director's Comments

By the time most of you read this, the annual IDVA Fall Conference and the annual Hoosier Women Veterans' Conference will already be over. IDVA has had it's hands full gearing up for not one, but two full conferences. This has been compounded by the conferences not even having a day in between. Doesn't matter - I'm sure both conferences will be successful

2009 has been quite a year for CVSOs. IDVA has conducted New Service Officer Orientations for fifteen new County Veterans' Service Officers since the beginning of the year. Most are full time and I'm sure will be fine service officers for the veterans in their counties

The Governor's Memorial Certificates continue to be a much requested benefit for the survivors of Hoosier veterans. As of the 6th of October, we had issued almost 1,700 certificates to the survivors of 718 veterans who passed away in 2009. If every CVSO would notify us of the death of the veterans in your county we could have a very valuable database of information, and could provide you with one or more of these beautiful certificates to present to survivors at your annual Memorial Day programs.

#### **Indiana Veterans' Home Report**

Current Census: 265
Total number of Veterans: 211
(13 female)World War II: 90
Korean War: 57
Vietnam War: 69
Gulf War: 1
OEF/OIF: 0

Peacetime:

Spouses:



Note: Several residents served in multiple conflicts. If a resident served in both WWII and Korea, they are listed under both categories which is why the numbers add up to more than the current census.

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### **Indiana Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Report**

**Current Burials:** 

World War I: 1 World War II: 178 Korean War: 105 Vietnam War: 154 Gulf War: 9 OEF/OIF: 1 Peacetime: 81 Spouses: 93 Dependents: 2 Total: 624



Note: There is one (1) casualty of the Vietnam War and one (1) OEF/OIF casualty buried at the IVMC.



Legislation

Legislation to be introduced on behalf of IDVA during the next session could include:

#### **Disabled Veteran License Plate:**

Renaming plate to "Disabled Hoosier Veteran" Eliminating the DAV II plate. All plates will be gold with blue letters and carry the universal handicapped insignia (wheelchair).

Disabilities rated at less than 40 percent by the VA will need to be accompanied by documentation from VA substantiating a walking disability.

#### Indiana Veterans' Home

Reducing the Indiana residency requirement from three (3) years to a more reasonable time period.

Eliminating the requirement that a veteran must currently be a resident of Indiana (but must still have been a resident during their lifetime).

Move oversight of historical buildings from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs 302 W. Washington Street E-120 Indianapolis, IN 46204